



Oakham Rural District Council

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

Y E A R E N D I N G

31 ST D E C E M B E R , 1 9 7 1

Medical Officer of Health
W. L. Palmer, MB.BS., DPH., DTM. & H.,

Public Health Inspector
C. Rhodes, MAPHI., M.Inst. PC.

OAKHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1971

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52,551
Registrar General's estimate of population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,900
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,371
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£367,767
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,482.20p

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live-Births - Legitimate	130	92	222
Illegitimate	1	4	5
	<u>131</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>227</u>
	<u><u>131</u></u>	<u><u>96</u></u>	<u><u>227</u></u>

E & W 1971

Live Birth Rate	Crude 19.1	Corrected 20.1	16.0
Death Rate	Crude 7.6	Corrected 10.3	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	35.0		18.0

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	-
Other malignant neoplasms	-	4
Diabetes mellitus	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	-	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	1
Hypertensive disease	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	9	8
Other forms of heart disease	1	2
Cerebrovascular disease	10	6
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	1
Pneumonia	3	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	7	-
Peptic ulcer	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Congenital anomalies	2	1
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	1	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-
Motor vehicle accidents	2	3
All other accidents	1	1
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	54	36
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health

W. L. Palmer, MB.BS., DPH., DTM. & H.

Public Health Inspector

C. Rhodes, Member of the Association of Public Health Inspectors, Member of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

An additional Public Health Inspector commenced duties on 1st January, 1971 but left the authority in May. Mr. B. A. Knight was subsequently appointed to this post and commenced duties in June, 1971.

The Public Health Inspector is also the Surveyor of the Rural District, and is responsible for Council house maintenance. He is also appointed Authorised Officer under the Food & Drugs Act 1955 and Inspector under the Shops Act 1950 for Rutland County Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Examination of specimens from this area was carried out during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester as follows:-

Nose and Throat Swabs	1
Faeces	2
Water	8
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														11
														<hr/>

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases during 1971

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases</u> <u>Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted</u> <u>to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Deaths.</u>
Measles	9	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Under</u> <u>1</u>	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>2</u> <u>3</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u>	<u>10</u> <u>14</u>	<u>15</u> <u>24</u>	<u>25</u> <u>44</u>	<u>45</u> <u>64</u>	<u>Over 65</u>
Measles	-	1	3	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

SERVICES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

WATER SUPPLY

Water supplies in the District generally can be regarded as quite satisfactory in both quality and quantity. Analyses are made regularly by the staff of the Leicester City Water Department. Samples of drinking water which have been submitted for analysis as to lead content showed figures of 0.075 p.p.m. and 0.020 p.p.m. and no ill effects possibly arising from plumbo-solvency have ever been reported. The fluoride content of the water supplies in any part of the District is less than 0.2 p.p.m., and the Council has already decided that no objection be raised to any proposal for the addition of fluoride to water supplies in this area.

Water is provided to over two thousand premises in most of the twenty-seven parishes from the mains of the Leicester City Corporation. Existing supplies in the more northerly parishes have been augmented by the Corporation from its mains in adjoining Districts. The Leicester City Corporation has also taken over the responsibility of supplying water to the North Luffenham R.A.F. Station (which includes a large number of properties in the parish of Edith Weston), and also of providing a reserve supply for Cottesmore Aerodrome.

Cottesmore Aerodrome has its own private water supply to over five-hundred houses at the Married Quarters and R.A.F. administration buildings.

Eight water samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination. Three samples were from the public supply and all were found to be satisfactory. One of these samples was taken following complaints of discolouration believed to be due to old iron pipes which needed flushing. Another sample was taken when a stop tap box was found to be filled with sewage and the tenant of the house had doubts about the supply being contaminated. Five samples were from private supplies serving dwellings and one was found to be unsatisfactory. The property concerned has since been connected to the public supply.

Particulars of the piped supplies in the various parishes are shown in the following table. Most of the dwellings concerned have internal piped supplies and there are no public standpipes.

December, 1971

WATER SUPPLIES

OAKHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

<u>Name of Parish</u>		<u>No. of dwellings with piped water supply</u>	<u>Farm and Other Connections</u>
ASHWELL	L	90	24
BARLEYTHORPE	L	41	7
BARROW	L	20	10
BRAUNSTON	L	118	23
BROOKE	P (and L)	4	5
BURLEY	L	85	35
COTTESMORE	L	326	33
EDITH WESTON	L	376	17
EGLETON	P (and L)	30	4
EMPINGHAM	P (and L)	305	26
EXTON	L	220	45
GREETHAM	L	160	22
GUNTORPE	P (and L)	8	1
HAMBLETON	L	52	29
HORN	L	2	3
LANGHAM	L	328	33
LEIGHFIELD	-	2	-
LYNDON	L	37	6
MANTON	L	109	26
MARKET OVERTON	L	149	28
MARTINSTHORPE	-	-	-
NORMANTON	L	13	1
STRETTON	P (and L)	34	12
TEIGH	L	23	14
THISTLETON	L	32	11
TICKENCOTE	L	16	2
WHISSENDINE	L	291	35
WHITWELL	L	20	10
COTTESMORE AERODROME	A.M.	532	-
		<hr/> 3423 <hr/>	<hr/> 462 <hr/>

L. Leicester City Water Department Supply

P. Private Piped Supply

A.M. Air Ministry Supply

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Eleven sewage disposal works serve twelve of the larger villages within the Council district and two other villages are connected to the sewers of Oakham Urban District Council i.e. Barleythorpe and Eggleton. During 1971 it was agreed that sewers in Edith Weston would be extended to serve proposed development within the village. Planning applications for development have increased significantly and there is little doubt that in the years before local government re-organisation more sewers will have to be extended and works enlarged or improved. The policy of restricting expenditure on sewerage schemes in the past has meant that land within village plan areas and where development might reasonably be anticipated has been left without sewers and piecemeal extension of sewers will be necessary. Small villages and hamlets where planning policies recommend development for agricultural need only are now being considered as ideal for new houses by discriminating individuals. Such villages are invariably without proper sewerage schemes. If pressures for building land continue only strict planning policies will curb this trend and keep the cost of providing sewerage and other services down.

The year brought the schemes designed for Stretton and Lyndon nearer to a start. The Welland and Nene River Authority's reservoir scheme at Empingham is well under way and the Council's Consultant Engineers are busy on survey and design work on schemes covering villages affected by the reservoir. Schemes for Barrow, Thistleton, Whitwell and Hambleton all villages without proper sewerage will it is hoped be completed before April 1974. In addition extensions at Langham, Whissendine and Market Overton are envisaged. At Langham trade effluent from a brewery has increased considerably and a new effluent agreement was necessary. At Whissendine considerable land is available for development and it is desirable that the storm water overflows be made obsolete by the provision of separate foul sewers. Market Overton works will be extended to cater for additional development and sewage from Barrow and Thistleton will also be pumped to this village scheme.

Informal action was initiated in respect of two private sewage disposal works in the area and it would seem that the River Authority had not been aware of these discharges. Complaint by a local farmer who farms land adjoining these works showed that both works needed attention. The River Authority have now arranged to take regular samples.

Effluent results from the sewage disposal works controlled by the local authority were extremely variable. River Authorities have suggested that development be restricted in several villages. Indifference and lack of incentives in the labour force may be a contributory factor whilst farm and trade effluents need to be more strictly controlled. Fortunately no difficulties were experienced in the disposal of sewage sludge which is still accepted by local farmers. During the year seventy private septic tanks were emptied. There were four emptyings of a Council owned tank serving Council houses. A contractors vehicle is hired for this purpose.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection service generally complies with the recommendations of the 1967 Report of the Working Party and two modern rear loading compression type vehicles are used. Refuse disposal is by attempted controlled tipping in an ironstone cutting. Problems arise from the dumping of refuse away from the tip face and light refuse is blown from the site during periods of strong winds. The lower layer of the ironstone cutting will shortly be filled after which control at ground level will need more care and expense to prevent possible nuisances.

STAFF

No progress has been made in the implementation of productivity bonus schemes. Although having agreed to a preliminary survey by L.A.M.S.A.C. the Council decided not to proceed with a Standard Data Based Schemes for refuse collection and unit cost based schemes for sewerage and housing maintenance. Two schemes for the refuse collection service devised by the Public Health Inspector based on L.A.M.S.A.C.'s survey were not acceptable to the staff concerned. The refuse collection crews would not accept any reduction in the labour force.

New offices were completed during November 1970 and an Additional Public Health Inspector was appointed to commence duties on 1st January, 1971. Routine enforcements and inspections were therefore limited again during 1971. The new appointment should enable the department to fully comply with the Council's responsibilities under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963, food hygiene legislation etc.

SERVICES UNDER THE FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1955

No samples of milk were taken during the year. There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

FOOD HYGIENE

Routine inspections under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 and the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966 were restricted to the major catering establishments on the A1 trunk road. Plans submitted in respect of food premises were scrutinised for compliance with food hygiene legislation, and applicants advised accordingly. The categories of food premises are as follows:-

	<u>1971</u>
Catering (including Licensed premises)	28
General food stores	24
Schools	7
Butchers/meat products	4
Bakehouses	3
Dairies/milk distributors	1
Brewery premises	2
Nursing homes	2
Village Halls (some are rarely used)	15
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	86
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At least eighteen known food traders use vehicles which should comply with the 1966 Regulations. Regular inspections are necessary to achieve a high standard of food hygiene on vehicles and hand washing facilities are frequently found to be inadequate. Some offences have been brought to the Council's notice and warning letters sent.

HOUSING

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

New dwellings

During 1971 sixty-seven new private houses were brought into rating, two buildings were converted into two separate dwellings and in improvement schemes six dwellings were converted into three. In all therefore there was an increase in the number of dwellings in the district of sixty-six.

Improvements

During the year nine standard grants and ten discretionary grants schemes were completed and approved for payment. This is fractionally less than in 1970. There is continued interest in grants however, and applications for qualification certificates are encouraging house owners to improve tenanted properties. The Council have made a policy decision to the effect that second discretionary grants will not be given.

COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT

Improvements to pre-war houses continued and all are expected to be fully improved before the end of 1972. Sub-standard post-war houses will then be improved progressively. Comprehensive improvements are involved and it is necessary to provide tenants with temporary accommodation whilst the work is in progress. No new dwellings were started during 1971. The Council plan to build four bungalows at Hambleton for re-housing tenants affected by the Empingham Reservoir Scheme. Some consideration was also given during the year to the possibility of providing blocks of flats for elderly persons in two of the larger villages.

MISCELLANEOUS

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

Thirteen caravan sites are licensed but not all are used. Most are for small numbers of caravans with one exception. The large site is licensed for forty residential caravans in what is in effect pleasant parkland adjoining an old Hall, this site is not fully occupied.

NOISE ABATEMENT

No formal action was taken during the year. One light industrial unit moved from premises immediately adjoining a dwelling to a disused village hall in a neighbouring village. Complaints had been made by the owner/occupier of the dwelling with particular reference to the use of machinery after normal working hours. Other complaints made by individual occupiers of dwellings were made in respect of barking dogs and noise made by vehicles from a brewery being parked and started outside their dwellings early in the morning. Both complaints were dealt with informally and not completely resolved.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

Private contractors call weekly and deal with all complaints of rats and mice on an annual contract basis. They also treat the Council's refuse tip and sewerage works as often as may be necessary. Test baiting of sewers showed no significant signs of infestation. In all 66 complaints were received of rat infestations and 25 in respect of mice. These figures are higher than in 1970. Two particular problems are of interest. In one case agricultural premises close to dwellings were found to be infested with rats and ample grain had been spilt in and around the buildings sufficient to support a large colony. The farming company concerned ultimately employed the contractors engaged by the Council to clear rats from the premises. Complaints of rats in the roof spaces of post-war houses in one village were difficult to resolve and inspections showed that rats had obviously used the roof spaces probably in successive winters before the complaints were made. The infestations ceased despite the fact that no structural work was carried out and bait laid appeared to be untouched.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No complaints were received from staff employed in the premises registered under this Act and no accidents were notified. Most of the premises are small family businesses the majority also being food premises controlled also by food hygiene legislation. All the registered premises were inspected during the year and details are as follows:-

One office	3
Six retail shops	18
Five catering establishments	30
	—
	51
	—

FACTORIES

Twenty factories are listed in the Council's records most are small light industrial units or small garages. All were inspected during the year and no serious contraventions were found. All the outworkers listed do work for a plastics factory situated within Oakham Urban District Council's area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	No. on Reg- ister (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sec- tions 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	5	5	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' Premises)	13	13	-	-
TOTAL	20	20	-	-

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:-

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspec- tor. (4)	By H.M. Inspec- tor. (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
Want of Cleanliness. (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences. (S.7.) (b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork
(Section 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council. (3)	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Assembly of plastic novelties etc.	4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	-	-	-	-	-

